

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 51

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to recognize Colonel Olen Scott Key on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have devoted much of their lives to the service of their nation as a member of the armed forces of the United States and who have performed with great valor and uncommon devotion to duty; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Olen Scott Key is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for thirty years in the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Wooddale High School, Colonel Olen Scott Key received his Bachelor of Business Administration from Memphis State University in 1976; an ROTC Distinguished Graduate, he entered the United States Air Force as a Second Lieutenant in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Key has served his country well, always adhering to the core values of the Air Force: “integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do;” and

WHEREAS, during his meritorious career, he was stationed at eight different Air Force bases, was assigned as an instructor at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, and was twice deployed to Kuwait, once during Operation Desert Storm in 1990-1991, and again during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in 2004; and

WHEREAS, earning the respect and admiration of his peers and superiors alike, Colonel Key was one of only thirty-five colonels hand-picked by the Chief of Staff of the Air Force to participate in a two-year Rerecruiting Program, counseling more than 600 Air Force pilots to recommit to the Air Force; and

WHEREAS, during his many years of service, he was consistently placed in senior leadership positions which required astute analytical skills; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Key commanded an organization of more than 800 military and 600 civilian/contractor personnel charged to safely train more than 600 United States Air Force pilots annually; and

WHEREAS, he was selected as the Wing Transition Officer during the closure of Plattsburgh Air Force Base in New York following the 1993 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Olen Scott Key served as Vice Wing Commander, 386 Expeditionary Airlift Wing, Kuwait, in 2004; he was second in command of more than 3,000 airmen in the combat zone flying environment; and

WHEREAS, he held the position of Chair of the Department of Joint Military Operation at Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, in which capacity he served for seven years; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Olen Scott Key holds a Master of Arts degree in Human Resources Development from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1987 with Distinguished Graduate and Summa Cum Laude honors; he also graduated from Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base in 1990, and he received a Master of Arts degree in Strategic Studies from Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Key has also lent his talents to several professional organizations, becoming a life member of the Airlift/Tanker Association as well as having served as the association's 2005-2006 Maxwell Chapter president; he is also a life member of the Air Force Association and Daedalians, Fraternal Order of Military Pilots; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Olen Scott Key exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true gentleman; he enjoys the loving companionship of his wife, Jean Ellen Key, and is the proud father of daughter, Carley Melissa Key and son, Captain Austin Scott Key; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Key is an active and devout member of First United Methodist Church, serving as a 2007 Lay Leader and Administrative Board Member; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable military career, Colonel Olen Scott Key has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his superiors, his peers, and those under his command; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Colonel Olen Scott Key, U.S. Air Force, our profound thanks for his courageous service to his nation in both times of war and of peace and our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.